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BREEDING AND SELECTING CLONES OF RHODODENDRONS INCLUDING AZALEAS

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(See-Proc. Inter. Plant Prop. Soc. 29:431-436 1979).

Thursday Afternoon, December 11, 1980

The Thursday afternoon session convened at 2:15 p.m. with James Sabo serving as moderator.

MYCORRHIZAE AND THEIR USES IN THE NURSERY

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Symbiotic associations between certain soil fungi and plant roots constitute relationships termed "mycorrhizae". Mycorrhizal roots are observed in nearly all native stands of plants, in all parts of the world (4, 14). In climates ranging from tropical to arctic, woody and herbaceous plants are normally involved in this form of symbiosis. Fungal symbionts in mycorrhizal associations include members of the Endogone, Ascomycetes and Basidiomycetes (4, 13).

There are two major types of mycorrhizae, distinguished by the way in which the fungus attaches itself to the root (4, 6, 10). The first classification is the ectomycorrhizal group, and the second is the endomycorrhizal group. In ectomycorrhizal associations, a fungal sheath forms around the exterior of the root and is a distinctive visible feature (10). The fungal sheath consists of divided fungal hyphae, but appears superficially as though it were made of plant cells (6). From this outer sheath, hyphae extend outward into the soil, and also inward around the outer cortical cells of the root. The inward extension is termed a Hartig